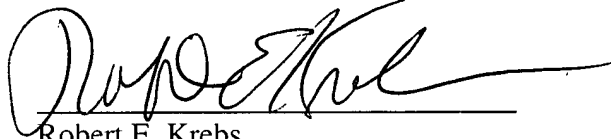


REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing amendment to the specification is requested to comply with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. 1.78(a)(2).

If the Examiner should be of the opinion that a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any outstanding issues, the Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,
THELEN REID & PRIEST LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert E. Krebs', is written over a horizontal line.

Robert E. Krebs
Reg. No. 25,885

Dated: February 20, 2004

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